

A NOTE ON BAUHINIA HAGENBECKII HARMS

R. P. Wunderlin *

Bauhinia hagenbeckii Harms is an interesting and variable species which occurs in the Cacho region of Paraguay and Brazil. The Cacho is an arid region composed of alluvial soil of unconsolidated sands and clays which supports a vegetation composed of thickets of thorny scrub trees and openings of coarse grasses. Until this study was conducted, this species was known only from photographs of the type specimen. The type collection was made in "Gran Cacho, Brazil" by Hagenbeck in April, 1895. The only known existing type was destroyed by allied bombs and fire during World War II. A photograph and a fragment (4 leaflets) of the type housed in the Field Museum of Natural History were examined by the author. This material is therefore designated as the lectotype of the species.

Bauhinia hassleriana was described by Chodat in 1904, one year after B. hagenbeckii, from the Cacho region of Paraguay. It was segregated into four forms (f. angustifolia, f. intermedia, f. latifolia, and f. acuminata) and a variety (var. marginata) by Chodat and Hassler in the same paper. Several of these taxa are known to the author only from the ample type materials and others from the description only. The forms angustifolia, intermedia, and latifolia were segregated on the basis of leaf width, the dimensions of which apparently were arbitrarily selected and overlap on the type material examined by the author. Forma acuminata is differentiated by having the lobes of the leaflets acuminate, but this also is too variable for formal taxonomic designation. Variety marginata is differentiated by having the leaflets distinctly marginate. This character is also not clear-cut and quite evident margins are found on other taxa of the species as well as on the type material of B. hagenbeckii.

In vegetative and floral characters B. hassleriana is not separated from B. hagenbeckii and is best considered as being conspecific with it.

The following is the synonymy of B. hagenbeckii and a description of the species as I know it:

BAUHINIA HAGENBECKII Harms, Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 33. Beibl. 72:21. 1903. (T: Hagenbeck s.n.!).

Bauhinia hassleriana Chod. in Chod. & Hassl. Bull. Herb. Boiss. ser. 2. 4:690. 1904, ex char.

Bauhinia hassleriana Chod. forma acuminata Chod. & Hassl. Bull. Herb. Boiss. ser. 2. 4:690. 1904. (T: Hassler 7076!).

Bauhinia hassleriana Chod. forma angustifolia Chod. & Hassl.

Bull. Herb. Boiss. ser. 2. 4:690. 1904, ex char.

Bauhinia hassleriana Chod. forma intermedia Chod. & Hassl. Bull.

Herb. Boiss. ser. 2. 4:690. 1904. (T: Hassler 7898!).

Bauhinia hassleriana Chod. forma latifolia Chod. & Hassl. Bull.

Herb. Boiss. ser. 2. 4:690. 1904. (T: Hassler 7656).

Bauhinia hassleriana Chod. var. marginata Chod. & Hassl. Bull.

Herb. Boiss. ser. 2. 4:690. (T: Hassler 6958!).

A much branched shrub or small tree. Branches pubescent, soon glabrescent. Leaves bifoliolate; leaflets obliquely ovate to linear-oblong, apices obtuse to subacute, 2-6 cm long, 0.5-2.0 cm wide, upper leaflets generally narrower than lower, puberulent or subglabrous below, usually pubescent near petiole, glabrous above, 1-to 4-nerved (depending on width of leaflets), veins conspicuously reticulate below, less so above, margins often distinct; petioles slender, 1-2 cm long, puberulent to subglabrous. Flowers solitary to few in axillary clusters, appressed puberulent; buds 5-6 cm long at maturity; calyx cylindrical, tube 2.5-4.0 cm long, lobes 2.5-3.5 cm long, splitting and reflexed at maturity; petals lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, clawed, 2.0-2.5 cm long, 6-8 mm wide, white; anthers 10, alternately long and short, filaments glabrous, 2.0-2.5 cm long; pistils slightly longer than stamens, glabrous or sparingly pilose; pedicels 10-12 mm long. Mature legume dimensions unknown, light tan, dehiscent.

Type: Hagenbeck s.n. (F) from "Gran Cacho, Brazil" is selected as the lectotype.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: BRAZIL: "Gran Cacho", Hagenbeck s.n. (F-type; photo-US, MO). PARAGUAY: Amambay: In rocks along Rio Apa near Bella Vista, Hassler 7898 (MO, MICH, US, UC, F). Boqueron: In sand along bank of Rio Yacare, Hassler 7076 (F, GH, UC). Cordilleras: In dry rocky area near Valenzuela, Hassler 6958 (photo-MO, US, F; MICH, F, MO, UC).

* Department of Botany, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.